


A-1028con
USSN: 08/858,389
April 26, 1999
Page 2

this response Applicants hereby elect the species of Figure 9 for prosecution.

Pending claims 1, 15-17, and 35-37 are believed to be generic. Additionally, claims 5, 14, 43, and 44 appear to read on the elected species. The remaining claims are withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected species, but those which depend upon eventually allowed claims are subject to being allowed as well, according to PTO practice.

In view of the foregoing amendments, and election, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits and for allowance over the prior art of record, and early notification of same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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April 26, 1999
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Registered Representative: Donald E. Stout, Reg. No. 34,493

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4-26-99